

August 30, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. According to Central Government data, the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 7.8 percent in the first quarter of the current Financial Year (2025-26), April-June. This is mainly due to the growth of the agricultural sector and the services sector, including trade, hotels, finance, and land sales.
 - i. China's GDP grew by only 5.2 percent in the April-June quarter of 2025-26.
 - ii. The value of the Indian rupee against the dollar has fallen to an all-time low of Rs. 88.19. The rupee is believed to be depreciating against the dollar as the US imposes a 50 percent import duty on Indian goods.
2. Japan has set a target of investing Rs. 6 lakh crore (10 trillion yen) in India over the next 10 years.
 - i. Furthermore, the two countries have formulated a grand vision to strengthen cooperation in various key sectors, including rare earth minerals, defense, and technological development.
 - ii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made this announcement after his trade talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba at the India-Japan Business Summit held in the Japanese capital Tokyo.
 - iii. An agreement was signed between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) to undertake joint space research projects. The two countries agreed to work together on India's 'Chandrayaan-5' project to explore the moon.
3. Prime Minister Modi, who visited Japan, was gifted a Daruma doll, considered one of the country's cultural symbols.
 - i. In a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, it was said that Prime Minister Modi was gifted a Daruma doll by Shishi Hirotsugu, the chief priest of Shorinzan Daruma-ji Temple.
 - ii. The Daruma doll is based on Bodhidharma, known in Japan as 'Daruma Daishi', an Indian monk who is said to have traveled to Japan from Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, a thousand years ago.
4. The Tamil Nadu Government hopes that the Bovine Breeding Act introduced by it will protect the native cattle from extinction.
 - i. In 2019, the 'Tamil Nadu Bovine Breeding Act' was introduced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. However, various parties, including native cattle enthusiasts and cattle breeders, strongly opposed this law, saying that native cattle would be driven to extinction.
 - ii. The law was then put under review. As a result, some provisions, including the imposition of a fine of Rs.50,000 for those who do not register their bulls,

have been repealed and the law has recently been implemented.

- iii. According to this law, owners of native bulls, including Jallikattu bulls, must register them with Government veterinary hospitals in their respective villages. The registration fee is Rs. 200. A further fee of Rs. 50 is required to renew the registration.
 - iv. Native bulls should not be mated with hybrid and foreign cows. Natural mating should only be done with domestic cows. Only properly registered bulls should be used for mating.
 - v. This law allows private companies and voluntary organizations to provide artificial insemination services, including the production and sale of sperm injections. Accordingly, semen storage centers must be registered by paying a fee of Rs.1 lakh to start them, and Rs. 50,000 to provide artificial insemination services.
5. Thailand's Constitutional Court has ordered the removal of Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office over a controversial phone call with Cambodia's former Prime Minister Hun Sen.
- i. There is a long-standing border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia. As part of that, 41 people were killed in clashes between the two countries troops last month. The two countries later reached a ceasefire following mediation by Malaysia.
6. India's fertilizer imports from Russia increased by 20 percent to 2.5 million tonnes in the first 6 months of this year.
- i. Russia's share of India's total fertilizer imports has risen to an unprecedented 33 percent.
 - ii. Russia is also the largest supplier of NPK fertilizers to India. Russian plants have increased production to meet India's fertilizer needs.
7. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said that the GST reform that is being pushed forward without protecting the states' revenues will not benefit their people.
- i. The State Finance Ministers' Group recently approved the removal of the current tax rates of 12% and 28% under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) reform.
 - ii. While welcoming the intent of these reforms, they should be designed in a way that does not affect state revenue, which is essential for public welfare programs and infrastructure and also emphasized that the benefits of tax cuts should reach the common people directly.
8. The Union Government has approved the appointment of former Reserve Bank of

India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel as the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He will hold the post for the next 3 years.

- i. The IMF has 25 executive directors, who are elected by member countries and groups of member countries. India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Bangladesh form a group.
9. India finished with 103 medals, including 52 gold, 26 silver, and 25 bronze, across three categories – senior, junior, and youth – at the Asian Shooting Championships held in Kazakhstan (Shymkent).

